

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/763,853

Examiner

Joanne Silbermann

Applicant(s)

MEYER, P. ALLAN

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment 10/17/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-7,12-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher D. Northcutt on 15 December 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Previously Amended) In a display sign having a support plate, a plurality of cards, and a hinge that retains each of the cards to enable the cards to be folded from one side of the hinge to another side of the hinge to display numerals, the improvement comprising:

a retaining member having a periphery containing a lobe portion and being rotatable from a retaining position, wherein the lobe portion overlies an edge portion of one of the cards, to an open position, wherein the lobe portion is free of the edge portion of said one of the cards; and

a lock assembly on the retaining member that includes a threaded member that is rotatable between a locked position, preventing rotation of the retaining member while in the retaining position, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the retaining member from the retaining to the open position, the lock assembly further comprises an aperture formed in the support plate and a lug on the retaining member that engages

Art Unit: 3611

the aperture while the threaded member is in the locked position and disengages from the aperture while the threaded member is in the unlocked position.

2. (Previously Amended) The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly further comprises a threaded receptacle stationarily carried by the support plate, the threaded member engaging the threaded receptacle.

3. (Original) The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the retaining member is rotatable about an axis of the threaded member between the retaining and open positions.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Original) The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lock assembly moves the retaining member toward the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated in one direction and away from the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated in an opposite direction.

6. (Previously Amended) The display sign according to claim 1, wherein the lug is located on a periphery of the retaining member opposite from the lobe portion.

7. (Previously Amended) The display sign according to claim 1, wherein:

Art Unit: 3611

the lock assembly moves the retaining member toward the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated toward the locked position and away from the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated toward the unlocked position; and

the retaining member is biased toward the support plate.

Claims 8-11 (Canceled).

12. (Original) A display sign, comprising:

a support plate;

at least one card;

a fastener having a head and a threaded shank that engages a threaded receptacle mounted to the support plate adjacent an edge of the card;

a retaining member having a cavity through which the shank of the fastener extends, the retaining member being rotatable about an axis of the shank from a retaining position overlying an edge of the card to an open position free of the edge of the card;

an aperture in the support plate adjacent the fastener;

a lug on the retaining member for selective engagement with the aperture when the retaining member is in the retaining position, preventing rotation of the retaining member to the open position; and wherein

rotating the fastener in a first direction moves the head closer toward the support plate to a locked position, wherein the head of the fastener prevents the lug from disengagement with the aperture, and rotating the fastener in a second direction moves the head away from the support plate to an unlocked position, wherein the head of the fastener allows the lug to be disengaged from the aperture.

13. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, further comprising a spring mounted between the head of the fastener and the retaining member for urging the retaining member toward the support plate.

14. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the threaded receptacle is stationarily mounted to a rearward side of the support plate, and the shank of the fastener protrudes from a forward side of the support plate.
15. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the spring comprises a coil spring encircling the shank of the fastener, the spring being compressed between the head of the fastener and a shoulder formed in the cavity.
16. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the retaining member has a periphery that includes a lobe portion and a clearance portion, the lobe portion protruding radially farther from the axis than the clearance portion to overly an edge of the card.
17. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, wherein the head of the fastener bears against the retaining member while in the locked position.
18. (Original) The display sign according to claim 12, wherein:
- the retaining member has a periphery that includes a lobe portion and a clearance portion, the lobe portion protruding radially farther from the axis of the shank than the clearance portion to overly an edge of the card; and
- the lug is located on the periphery of the retaining member opposite from the lobe portion.

19. Previously Presented) In a display sign having a support plate, a plurality of cards, and a hinge that retains each of the cards to enable the cards to be folded from one side of the hinge to another side of the hinge to display numerals, the improvement comprising:

a retaining member having a periphery containing a lobe portion and being rotatable from a retaining position, wherein the lobe portion overlies an edges portion of one of the cards, to an open position, wherein the lobe portion is free of the edge portion of said one of the cards, the retaining member being biased toward the support plate; and

a lock assembly on the retaining member that includes a threaded member that is rotatable between a locked position, preventing rotation of the retaining member while in the retaining position, and an unlocked position that allows rotation of the retaining member from the retaining to the open position, the lock assembly moves the retaining member toward the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated toward the locked position and away from the support plate while the threaded member is being rotated toward the unlocked position.

20. (Currently Amended) The display sign according to claim 1 19, wherein the lock assembly further comprises a threaded receptacle stationarily carried by the support plate, the threaded member engaging the threaded receptacle.

Art Unit: 3611

21. (Currently Amended) The display sign according to claim 1 19, wherein the retaining member is rotatable about an axis of the threaded member between the retaining and open positions.

22. (Currently Amended) The display sign according to claim 1 19, wherein the threaded member is rotated in one direction while moving the retaining member toward the locked position, and rotated in an opposite direction while moving the retaining member toward the unlocked position.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 17 October 2005. These drawings are accepted.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joanne Silbermann whose telephone number is 571-272-6653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 - 2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3611

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Joanne Silbermann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

js
16 December 2005